OCCURRENCE OF ZOONOTIC PARASITES IN DOG FECES AND SOIL SAMPLES OF A PERIPHERY NEIGHBORHOOD IN BOTUCATU – SP

(OCORRÊNCIA DE PARASITAS ZOONÓTICOS EM FEZES DE CÃES E AMOSTRAS DE SOLO EM BAIRRO DA PERIFERIA DE BOTUCATU-SP)

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This study aims at determining the occurrence of helminth eggs and Giardia sp. cysts in soil and household vegetable garden samples from the Santa Maria neighborhood in the outskirts of Botucatu-SP. Stool and soil samples were analyzed using the method of zinc sulfate centrifugal flotation 33% (Technical Faust), floatation by saturated NaCl (Willis and Mollay) and sedimentation (Hoffman, Pons and Janer). We visited 15 households distributed in five different streets of this neighborhood, according to complaints of patients with diarrhea in the local Health Center. Therefore, stool samples from dogs of the households and soil samples from backyards and vegetable gardens were collected. We analyzed soil samples from four domestic vegetable gardens; backyard soil from seven households, with or without the presence of animals; and, animal stool samples of five households. The prevalence of Giardia sp. cysts and Ancylostoma spp. eggs was 33.3% and 46.6%, respectively. Giardia sp. cysts were found in animal stool samples while Ancylostoma spp. was present in both stool and soil samples of the selected households. High environmental contamination and infection of animals by zoonotic parasites were observed, posing risks to the neighborhood residents. We conclude that it would be important to conduct instructive activities, to educate the population of the neighborhood about the importance of hygiene, water quality and food preparation. It should also be emphasized the role of the veterinarian at the Núcleo de Apoio à Saúde da Família (NASF) as part of the team that works together with the staff of the Programa de Saúde da Família, to the extent that he is able to detect and intervene in animals health problems, thus preventing the transmission of zoonotic diseases to humans.

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